

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 /059 W

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R 261757Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9234

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

S E C R E T DAKAR 2884

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PGOV, ML, PFOR

SUBJECT: MALIAN SEEKS SUPPORT TO ARREST COUNTRY'S LEFTWARD
MOVEMENT

1. EMBASSY WAS VISITED APRIL 25 BY MALIAN NAMED BABA DIARRA WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS COUSIN OF MALIAN VICE PRESIDENT OF SAME NAME. HE SAID VICE-PRESIDENT WAS "CHEF DE FILE" OF GROUP OF MALIANS WHO ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER SOCIALIST AND MARXIST-LENINIST DIRECTION WHICH COUNTRY IS TAKING. HE SPOKE WITH CONCERN OF DEEPENING TIES WITH USSR REFLECTED IN ACQUISITION OF SOVIET PLANES AND SOVIET DEVELOPMENT OF AIRFIELDS AND FACILITIES ACROSS MALI WHICH IT HAD USED FOR ANGOLA AIRLIFT. HE ACCUSED MINISTER OF INTERIOR, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HEAD OF SECURITY AND SECRETARY OF MILITARY COMMITTEE OF INTENDING TO MOVE MALI ALONG MARXIST-LENIST TRACK WITHOUT REGARD TO POPULAR WILL. HEAD OF STATE, HE SAID, DID NOT HAVE SAME IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION, BUT WAS UNABLE TO RESIST MOMENTUM BECAUSE HE WAS "FEEBLE" AND -INCAPABLE." UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS OF NEW SINGLE PARTY WAS INTENDED TO CONSECRATE MALI'S OPTION TO MOVE TOWARD MARXIST-LENINIST GOALS.

2. DIARRA INSISTED THAT MAJORITY OF MALIANS AND SPECIFICALLY OF ARMY WERE OPPOSED. WORKERS, ASIDE FROM "IMPOSED" UNION HEAD, WERE ALSO AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S LEFTIST INTENTIONS. MALIAN STUDENTS,

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HE SAID, WERE STRIKING. WHAT WAS SOUGHT FROM US WAS "NOT ARMS, BUT MORAL SUPPORT" FOR EFFORT TO ARREST MALI'S MOVEMENT TO LEFT. IT WAS NOT MADE FULLY CLEAR WHAT MEANS WERE ENVISAGED TO CARRY THIS OUT.

3. DIARRA SAID HE HAD LEFT BAMAKO THREE WEEKS AGO, HAD BEEN IN NOUAKCHOTT IN MEANTIME AND WOULD BE RETURNING IN TWO-THREE

DAYS. WHEN ASKED WHY HE HAD NOT CONTACTED AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BAMAKO, HE INSISTED THAT SURVEILLANCE WAS VERY TIGHT IN BAMAKO AND THAT KNOWN FIGURES COULD NOT VISIT FOREIGN EMBASSIES WITHOUT IT BECOMING KNOWN.

4. DIARRA LAMENTED WHAT HE SAID WAS LACK OF FREE PRESS AND DEMOCRACY IN MALI. HE SAID THAT, WHILE MALI AND SENEGAL WERE COOPERATING IN ECONOMIC FIELD, RELATIONS WERE "VERY CLOUDED" IN POLITICAL REALM.

5. EMBOFF THANKED DIARRA FOR VISIT AND INFORMATION BUT STRESSED THAT US 1) HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF MALI, 2) WISHED TO AVOID INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND 3) RESPECTED RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF EACH COUNTRY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY IS NOT WELL PLACED TO EVALUATE DIARRA'S BONA FIDES OR INFORMATION, HE IS WELL-SPOKEN AND SELF-ASSURED. WHILE IN DAKAR "ON BUSINESS" HE IS STAYING AT SUBURBAN RESIDENCE OF DIRECTOR OF LOCAL FIRM, WHO HE SAID IS ALSO A COUSIN. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT EMBASSY BAMAKO MAY HAVE.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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